

transmitting data from each intermediate location to corresponding central locations; and
transmitting data within the central locations.

Please cancel claim 52.

REMARKS

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination of the present application.

Claims 1-51 are presented in the present application, claim 52 having been cancelled by the present amendment. The present amendment acts to more clearly define the subject matter of the present application and presents no new matter.

Applicant also encloses herewith a copy of a Supplemental Power of Attorney filed in the parent case for the Examiner's convenience.

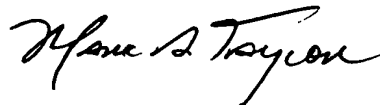
It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, should issues arise, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to resolve those issues in a timely manner.

RECEIVED

FEB 16 1999

Group 2700

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Taylor
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 35,706
Telephone: (804) 775-4338
Fax: (804) 698-2244

Please direct all correspondence to:
J. Michael Martinez de Andino, Esquire
McGuire Woods Battle & Boothe LLP
One James Center
901 East Cary Street
Richmond, VA 23219-4030
Telephone: (804) 775-1033
Fax: (804) 698-2106